

June 30, 2009

Dear Governor Quinn and Members of the Illinois General Assembly,

In accordance with the Illinois Early Learning Council Act (Public Act 93-380) we are pleased to submit a Fiscal Year 2009 report describing the Illinois Early Learning Council's accomplishments. The Illinois Early Learning Council has been committed to ensuring that all Illinois children are safe, healthy, eager to learn and ready to succeed by the time they enter school. Through collaborative efforts to coordinate, improve and expand upon existing early childhood programs and services, the Council is working to meet the early learning needs of all children from birth to age five and their families.

Since its inception five years ago, the Council, in partnership with the Illinois General Assembly, has made significant contributions to raising the profile of Illinois as a national leader in the field of early childhood. The Preschool for All program, based on a blueprint created by the Illinois Early Learning Council, makes Illinois the first state in the nation with the goal of offering high-quality preschool to all three- and four-year-olds while expanding child development and family support services to at-risk infants and toddlers. The Council has also made recommendations that have strengthened the quality of all of Illinois' early childhood programs for children from birth to age five, continued to build a well-qualified workforce, and enhanced accountability through investments in quality assurance.

In the past year, several recommendations have been passed by the Council that encourage and support high-quality early learning programs for all children in the state of Illinois. The Council has addressed issues that particularly affect some of the state's most vulnerable populations – at-risk infants and toddlers, hard-to-reach families – and areas of high-need but limited physical capacity.

Helping young children start school ready to learn is critical to their future success and to the well-being of society as a whole. We look forward to sharing our recommendations and accomplishments with you in the future and to actively working with you to build a strong early learning system that supports the healthy development of Illinois' children and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Harriet Meyer".

Harriet Meyer
President, Ounce of Prevention Fund
Co-chair, Illinois Early Learning Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julie M. Smith".

Julie Smith
Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Quinn
Co-chair, Illinois Early Learning Council

Illinois Early Learning Council



**Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2009**

Illinois Early Learning Council

Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	BACKGROUND	4
2.	VISION	4
3.	MISSION	4
4.	MEMBERSHIP	4
5.	COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND CHARGES.....	4
6.	COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS	7
7.	APPENDICES	
	A. Illinois Early Learning Council and Committee Members.....	9
	B. Illinois Early Learning Council and Committee Meetings.....	12
	C. Illinois Early Learning Council Committee Work Plans.....	16
	D. Illinois Early Learning Council Timeline of Accomplishments.....	39

Illinois Early Learning Council

BACKGROUND

The state of Illinois supports many early learning programs for children from birth to age five and their families. Legislation creating the Illinois Early Learning Council (the Council) was an instrumental step forward in establishing a statewide high-quality early childhood system. The Council is governed by Public Act 93-380 (the Illinois Early Learning Council Act), which was co-sponsored by all four legislative leaders and signed into law in 2003.

VISION

The vision of the Illinois Early Learning Council is that all children in Illinois start school safe, healthy, eager to learn and ready to succeed.

MISSION

The mission of the Council is to meet the early learning needs of children from birth to age five and their families by establishing a high-quality, accessible, and comprehensive statewide early learning system. This will be accomplished by:

- Guiding collaborative efforts and making recommendations to coordinate, improve and expand upon existing early childhood programs and services, and
- Engaging in planning, coordination and linkages across programs, divisions and agencies at the state level as well as making use of existing reports, research, and planning efforts.

MEMBERSHIP

The Council is currently comprised of gubernatorial and legislative appointees who serve on a voluntary, unpaid basis. Council members represent a broad range of constituencies, including schools, child care centers and homes, Head Start, higher education, state, local, and federal government agencies, the General Assembly, business, law enforcement, foundations, and parents. The Council includes representation from both public and private organizations, and its membership reflects regional, racial, and cultural diversity to ensure representation of the needs of all Illinois children. The Council as a whole meets a minimum of three times a year. Members are encouraged to participate on at least one committee of the Council. Both members who are formally appointed to the Council and early childhood stakeholders who serve on individual committees act as a collective advisory body, working collaboratively to develop advisory recommendations in keeping with the Council's vision, mission, and goals. The Council is co-chaired by Harriet Meyer, President of the Ounce of Prevention Fund, and Julie Smith, Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Patrick Quinn. The Council Co-chairs designate Council Committee Co-chairs. A full list of Illinois Early Learning Council members is included in Appendix A.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND CHARGES

The Council approves a committee structure to guide its work and to accomplish its priority goals. Committees strive to recruit members who represent a diverse array of constituency groups, as well as the regional, cultural and linguistic diversity in the state.

Illinois Early Learning Council

**Co-chairs: Harriet Meyer, Ounce of Prevention Fund
Julie Smith, Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Quinn**

Oversight and Coordination

**Co-chairs: Judith Walker Kendrick, Chicago Coalition for Site-Administered Programs
Teri Talan, McCormick Tribune Center for Early Childhood Leadership**

Charge: Provide advice to the Early Learning Council to help ensure the effective implementation of all Preschool for All birth to five services and program quality components and Early Learning Council recommendations.

Charge: Recommend systems focusing on standards, assessments, systems-level program evaluation, and quality assurance that support both individual children's learning and development and programs' continuous improvement.

Charge: Recommend strategies to improve coordination and integration across early childhood programs and systems to address the comprehensive nature of children's healthy development and readiness for school.

Workforce Development

**Co-chairs: Ava Harston, Illinois Federation of Teachers
Jan Maruna, IL Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies**

Charge: Ensure an adequate and stable supply of highly qualified and diverse early childhood professionals to provide high-quality early childhood services.

Public Awareness

**Co-chairs: Joan Vitale, Voices for Illinois Children
Kathleen Villano, ECDEC, Schaumburg, Palatine and Wheeling Townships**

Charge: Increase participation in high-quality early learning programs by providing consistent, high-quality information, outreach and technical assistance to families, early childhood providers, and other stakeholders.

Space Capacity

**Co-chairs: Ric Estrada, Erie Neighborhood House
Anthony Raden, Chicago Department of Family and Support Services**

Charge: Increase the space capacity in communities to serve children in high-quality preschool classrooms and infant-toddler care and education settings, especially where there are shortages.

<p style="text-align: center;">Infants and Toddlers</p> <p>Co-chairs: Jeanna Capito, Positive Parenting DuPage Mark Valentine, Ounce of Prevention Fund</p>
<p>Charge: Expand access to high-quality early childhood development programs for all at-risk children under three years of age.</p> <p>Charge: Improve the quality of infant-toddler child care.</p> <p>Charge: Improve coordination across infant-toddler programs and services at the state and local levels. Develop recommendations regarding the creation of an outreach system for all new parents to provide basic information and support and to identify and connect families who need more intensive services to appropriate programs and services.</p>

Cross-Committees

<p style="text-align: center;">Linguistic and Cultural Diversity</p> <p>Co-chairs: Awilda Adorno, Wheeling School District, retired Josie Yanguas, Illinois Resource Center</p>
<p>Charge: Develop strategies for meeting the varied needs of culturally and linguistically diverse families and young children to ensure that they are well-prepared for school.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Special Populations</p> <p>Co-chairs: Daniel Ibarra-Fitzgerald, Department of Children and Family Services vacant</p>
<p>Charge: Expand access to high-quality early learning programs to children who face the greatest challenges, such as children with disabilities, children who are homeless, children involved in the child welfare system, children in domestic violence shelters, etc.</p>

The Linguistic and Cultural Diversity and Special Populations Committees are conceptualized as “cross-committees,” such that some members from each of these committees will also be members of each of the six other committees in order to represent the needs of linguistically and culturally diverse children and families or children who are most vulnerable and their families.

This year, the Council created two bodies to focus on issues of importance in early childhood, both in Illinois and nationally. The issue of comprehensive early childhood data systems has been gaining prominence, and was included as an important component in both federal Head Start reauthorization and in the federal stimulus act. Similarly, on the state level, the P-20 Longitudinal Education Data System Act (Senate Bill 1828) was passed this year by the General Assembly and explicitly calls for the state to connect early learning data through the K-12 and higher education systems. The bill references the Council’s Early Childhood Data Work Group, a standing work group of the Executive Committee, which was created to develop recommendations for the establishment of a unified data collection system for public early childhood education and development programs and services throughout the state.

In addition, the Council created the Home Visiting Task Force to bring together stakeholders to plan for the infrastructure to support a high-quality system of evidence-based home visiting for at-risk infants and toddlers. The Home Visiting Task Force also serves as the advisory body for the Strong Foundations federal grant.

The Council's Executive Committee, comprised of Council Co-chairs, Co-chairs of Council Committees, and at-large members who serve at the discretion of the Council Co-chairs, set the direction of the Council, coordinate work across committees, approve all formal recommendations for consideration by the Council, coordinate efforts with relevant ongoing planning entities, and advance the Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map, a web-based database combining information about early childhood services with demographic information, which serves as a planning tool to support achievement of the Council's goals and objectives.

During FY2008, the Council convened three meetings. Minutes from those meetings can be found on the Illinois Early Learning Council website, <http://www.illinois.gov/gov/elc/minutes.cfm>. Council Committees held a total of 65 meetings this fiscal year. A list of Council and Committee meeting dates for FY2009 is included in Appendix B.

COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since working to develop a comprehensive plan for Preschool for All and releasing the *Preschool for All* report in the spring of 2006, the Council has worked to establish Preschool for All as the benchmark for high-quality early learning programs for all three- and four-year-olds in the state.

Illinois is the first state in the nation with the goal of offering high-quality preschool to all three- and four-year-olds while expanding child development and family support for at-risk infants and toddlers. It is built on the platform of the state prekindergarten program and the set-aside for at-risk infants and toddlers ages birth to three-years-old. Young children who are at risk of school failure are the first priority as Preschool for All expansion builds up, followed by middle-income children and, finally, all other children whose parents want them to participate. Originally, a sunset date of 2008 was included for Preschool for All, but during the spring of 2008, the General Assembly overwhelmingly passed legislation that extended the sunset date until 2010.

In addition to working on recommendations for Preschool for All implementation, the Council works on issues that have an impact on the many systems that contribute to children's healthy development, and has reached out to other early childhood planning bodies to collaborate on priority issues.

The Council focused this year on issues of both access and quality in early childhood programs. In response to the Council's desire to identify ways to reach out to families that are difficult to engage in traditional preschool programs, committees worked on developing potential strategies to address barriers to program participation. Two tool kits were developed – one that guides early childhood programs in identifying the needs of the hardest to reach members of their communities and provides examples of program strategies that can be used to engage families, and another to be used by partners in the social services to help alert families to the need for early childhood services and direct them to programs. Council committees worked along with representatives of the Interagency Nutrition Council to both develop the social service provider tool kit and partner for their distribution and implementation with county nutrition program staff.

Additionally, recommendations and work have moved forward that provide a framework for the use of potential investments in early childhood capital. Strategies for funding both small- and large-scale renovation and construction are included in the recommendations passed by the Council and

shared with the Capital Development Board. Capital investments are critical to Preschool for All success, as in many neighborhoods – especially in Latino communities – at-risk children are unable to attend programs because of lack of space for program expansion.

To address quality in center-based infant and toddler programs funded by the Early Childhood Block Grant, a joint work group composed of members of two Council committees developed recommendations for staff qualifications. The work group created a recommendation for training and education to be phased in over several years in order to ensure that our youngest children are served by qualified practitioners and that the early childhood work force has adequate time to achieve the recommended qualifications.

Another important activity of the Council this year began as a response to federal stimulus funding. To highlight the opportunities in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the Council created a set of recommendations for the Illinois State Board of Education to include in their guidance to Local Education Agencies regarding possible uses of Title I and IDEA Part B funding. The Council submitted a set of suggestions detailing initiatives that could be undertaken by local school districts to support and expand early childhood services, community collaborations, and the early childhood workforce. This document was shared with the Illinois State Board of Education. The Council's recommendations were also shared with national groups who used it as a model for ways that state early childhood advisory councils can have an impact on how ARRA funding is used in their states.

Some other accomplishments and recommendations offered by the Council this year include:

- Recommending that an Office of Early Childhood Development be created by the Governor and be housed in his office. Creating an Office of Early Childhood Development would serve to elevate early childhood issues and signal its importance to both the members of the General Assembly and the administrators of state agencies, and aid with coordination and implementation of Council recommendations.
- Creating recommendations for changes to the Early Childhood Block Grant Request for Proposals to better tie explanations of program activities to essential elements of quality service in programs for infants and toddlers as well as preschoolers.
- Developing recommendations for components necessary for a comprehensive, high-quality, and cross-agency monitoring system for Illinois' infant and toddler programs.
- Soliciting input through a web-based survey on programs' practices for engaging children and families from special populations, including homeless children and children in the special education and child welfare systems, among others.
- Beginning work on recommendations for programs to help them incorporate best practices for English language learners, as well as researching the needs of practitioners and students in teacher preparation programs who will be working with culturally and linguistically diverse populations.
- Creating public awareness documents in English and in Spanish for use by Preschool for All providers and parents.
- Convening special work groups to research and identify opportunities for encouraging the attainment of the Illinois Director Credential.

For a full description of Illinois Early Learning Council accomplishments, please see Appendix D.

APPENDIX A: ILLINOIS EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL MEMBERS

Carol Adams
Secretary
Illinois Department of Human Services

Awilda Adorno
Early Childhood Center Director, retired
School District 21

Ann Alvarez
President & CEO
Casa Central

Damon Arnold
Director
Illinois Department of Public Health

Martha Arntson
Executive Director
Childcare Network of Evanston

Carol J. Auer
Superintendent
Keeneyville School District #20

Lori Ann Baas
Executive Director
Christopher House

Barbara Bowman
Chief Early Childhood Education Officer
Chicago Public Schools

Jeanna Capito
Executive Director
Positive Parenting DuPage

Mary Ellen Caron
Commissioner
Chicago Department of Family and Support Services

Tim Carpenter
Director
Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Illinois

Martina Casey
Family Child Care Provider
Service Employees International Union

The Honorable Elizabeth Coulson
State Representative
Illinois General Assembly

George Davis
Executive Director
City of Rockford Human Services Department

Judy Erwin
Executive Director
Illinois Board of Higher Education

Ric Estrada
Executive Director
Erie Neighborhood House

Jana Fleming
Executive Director of Child Development Studies
City Colleges of Chicago

Lauri Morrison Frichtl
Executive Director
Illinois Head Start Association

Phyllis Glink
Executive Director
Irving Harris Foundation

The Honorable Deborah Graham
State Representative
Illinois General Assembly

Vinni Hall
Board Member
Illinois State Board of Education

The Honorable Don Harmon
State Senator
Illinois General Assembly

Gloria Harris
Parent
Community Organizing and Family Issues

Ava Harston
Education Issues Director
Illinois Federation of Teachers

Kay Henderson
Division Administrator
Illinois State Board of Education

Grace Hou
Assistant Secretary
Illinois Department of Human Services

Eboni Howard
Director, Herr Research Center
Erikson Institute

Daniel Ibarra-Fitzgerald
Chief, Latino Affairs
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Michael Johnson
Executive Director
Illinois Association of School Boards

Colleen Jones
Executive Vice President and COO
Metropolitan Family Services

Christopher Koch
Superintendent
Illinois State Board of Education

Terri Lawrence
President
Illinois Head Start Association

Suzanne Logan
President
PSO Illinois Child Care Association

Trinita Logue
President
IFF

Barry Maram
Director
Illinois Healthcare and Family Services

Teresa Martin
Past President
Illinois Principals Association

Janet Maruna
Executive Director
Illinois Network of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies

Erwin McEwen
Director
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Mark McHugh
Executive Director, Northern Region
Kids Hope United

Cordelia Meyer
Vice-President
Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago

Harriet Meyer (Co-chair)
President
Ounce of Prevention Fund

Janice Moenster
Professional Development Advisor
Children's Home + Aid

Carolyn Newberry Schwartz
*The Oak Park Collaboration
for Early Childhood Care and Education*

Geoffrey Obrzut
President
Illinois Community College Board

Richard Pappas
President
National Louis University

Sylvia Puente
Executive Director
Latino Policy Forum

Claudia Quigg
Executive Director
Baby TALK

Barbara Quinn
President
*Illinois Congress of
Parents and Teachers*

Anthony Raden
Deputy Commissioner for Policy
Chicago Department of Family and Support Services

Elliot Regenstein
Partner
EducationCounsel, LLC

Angela Rudolph
Education Program Officer
Joyce Foundation

Gina Ruther
Director
Head Start State Collaboration Office

Linda Saterfield
Bureau Chief
*Bureau of Child Care and Development, Illinois
Department of Human Services*

Jodi Scott
Regional Superintendent
ROE 27

Adele Simmons
Vice Chairman and Senior Executive
Chicago Metropolis 2020

Unita Sims
Vice President, Children and Family Services
CEDA

Sara Slaughter
Education Program Director
McCormick Foundation

Julie Smith (Co-chair)
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of Governor Pat Quinn

Luz Maria Solis
Administrator, Early Childhood Programs
Chicago Public Schools

Jerome Stermer
Chief of Staff
Office of Governor Pat Quinn

Teri Talan
Director of Research and Public Policy
McCormick Tribune Center for Early Childhood Leadership

Sheridan Turner
President and CEO
Kohl Children's Museum

Mark Valentine
Assistant Director – Illinois Birth to Three Institute
Ounce of Prevention Fund

Kathleen Villano
Project Director
ECDEC, Schaumburg, Palatine and Wheeling Townships

Judith Walker Kendrick
Director
Chicago Coalition of Site-Administered Child Care Programs

Maria Whelan
President & CEO
Illinois Action for Children

Kay Willmoth
Regional Administrator
Region V Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Josie Yanguas
Director
Illinois Resource Center

APPENDIX B: FY08 COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS
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**ILLINOIS EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL
SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, 2008-2009**

July

- 2** Special Populations Committee, Uhlich Children's Advantage Network (UCAN)
3737 N. Mozart, Chicago, 9:30-11:30
- 15** Space Capacity Committee videoconference, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W.
Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, and 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 716, Springfield,
10:00 - 12:00
- 31** Infant Toddler Committee and Workforce Development Committee Joint Work
Group, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 2:00 - 4:00

August

- 6** Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Committee, James R. Thompson Center, 14th Floor,
100 W. Randolph Street, Chicago, 9:30 – 12:00
- 8** Infant Toddler Community Collaboration Work Group, Ounce of Prevention Fund,
33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 10:00 – 12:30
- 11** Joint Work Group on Local Collaborations of the Birth to Five Project and the Infant
Toddler Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago,
10:00 – 11:30
- 12** Hard to Reach Work Group of the Oversight and Coordination Committee
(audioconference only), 1:00 – 2:30

September

- 5** RFP/Process Workgroup of the Infant Toddler Committee, Ounce of Prevention
Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 1:00 – 2:30
- 5** Joint Work Group of the Workforce Development and Linguistic and Cultural
Diversity Committees, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400,
Chicago, 9:30 – 11:00
- 10** Special Populations Committee, 4200 N. Oak Park Avenue Annex, Chicago, 9:30 –
11:30
- 15** Hard to Reach Work Group of the Oversight and Coordination Committee, Ounce of
Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 11:00-12:00
- 15** Space Capacity Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400,
Chicago, 1:00-3:00
- 17** Infant Toddler Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400,
Chicago, 10:00 – 12:00
- 18** Workforce Development Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe,
Suite 2400, Chicago, 2:00 – 4:00

October

- 3** Ad Hoc Work Group on Capacity Strategies of the Space Capacity Committee,
Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 2:00-4:00

- 13 Oversight and Coordination Committee videoconference, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400 Chicago, and 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 716, Springfield, 10:00 – 12:00
- 21 Executive Committee videoconference, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago and 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 716, Springfield, 2:00 – 3:30
- 22 Public Awareness Committee, Voices for Illinois Children, 208 N. LaSalle, Suite 1490, Chicago, 10:00 – 12:00
- 22 Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Committee, James. R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph, Room 2-209, Chicago, 9:30 – 12:00
- 27 Early Learning Council, Michael A. Bilandic Building, 160 N. LaSalle, Room N-505, Chicago, 11:00 – 1:00

November

- 3 Joint Workforce Development and Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Committee Work Group, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 1:00-2:30
- 6 Special Populations Committee, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, 1325 S. Wabash #205, Chicago, 9:30-11:30
- 12 Workforce Development Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 10:00-12:00
- 21 Joint Workforce Development and Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Committee Work Group, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 9:30 - 11:30

December

- 2 Joint Infant Toddler and Workforce Development Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 9:30 - 11:00
- 11 Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Committee, James R. Thompson Center, 14th Floor, 100 W. Randolph Street, Chicago, 9:30 - 12:00

2009

January

- 12 Birth to Three Monitoring Work Group of the Oversight and Coordination Committee videoconference, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago and 1 W Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 716 Springfield, 1:00 – 2:30
- 15 Joint Infant Toddler and Workforce Committee Work Group, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 2:00 - 3:30
- 16 Joint Workforce Development Committee and Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Committee Work Group, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 9:30 - 11:30
- 28 Workforce Development Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 10:00 - 12:00
- 28 Home Visiting Task Force, National-Louis University, 122 South Michigan Avenue #6, Room 4012, Chicago, 2:00 - 4:30
- 30 Infant Toddler Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe Suite 2400, Chicago, 10:00–12:00

February

- 4** Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Committee, James. R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph, Room 2-209, Chicago, 9:30 - 12:00
- 9** Public Awareness Committee, Voices for Illinois Children, 208 N. LaSalle, Suite 490, Chicago, 10:00 – 12:00
- 9** Executive Committee videoconference, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, and 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 716, Springfield, 1:00 – 2:00
- 20** Birth to Three Monitoring Work Group of the Oversight and Coordination Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 11:00 – 1:00
- 22** Early Learning Council, National Louis University, 122 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago Atrium, Chicago, 11:00 – 1:00

March

- 9** Ad Hoc Stimulus Work Group of the Early Learning Council Executive Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 11:00 – 12:00
- 11** Workforce Committee ARRA priorities audioconference, 9:30 – 10:30
- 12** Oversight and Coordination ARRA priorities audioconference, 3:30 – 5:00
- 13** Data Work Group of the Executive Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 10:00 – 12:00
- 20** Home Visiting Task Force videoconference, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, and 1 W Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 716, Springfield, 10:00-12:00
- 20** Special Needs Training Work Group of the Home Visiting Task Force, audioconference only, 2:00 – 3:00

April

- 1** Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Committee, Boeing, 100 N. Riverside, Chicago, 9:30 – 12:00
- 2** Public Awareness Work Group of the Home Visiting Task Force audioconference only, 12:00 – 2:00
- 3** Birth to Three Monitoring Work Group of the Oversight and Coordination Committee videoconference, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, and 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 716, Springfield, 10:00 – 11:30
- 20** Space Capacity Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 10:00 – 12:00
- 27** Special Needs Training Work Group of the Home Visiting Task Force, audioconference only, 3:30 – 4:30
- 29** Infant Toddler Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 1:00 – 3:00

May

- 4** Public Awareness Committee, Voices for Illinois Children, 208 N. LaSalle, Suite 1490, Chicago, 11:00 – 12:30
- 4** Special Executive Committee videoconference, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago and 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 716, Springfield, 4:00 – 5:00

- 7 Birth to Three Monitoring Work Group of the Oversight and Coordination Committee videoconference, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, and 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 716, Springfield, 1:00 – 2:30
- 7 Type 29 Workgroup of the Workforce Development and Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Committees (audioconference only), 1:00 – 2:00
- 7 Program Monitoring and Quality Assurance Work Group of the Home Visiting Task Force, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 1:00 – 2:30
- 11 Oversight and Coordination Committee videoconference, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, and 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 716, Springfield, 10:00 – 12:00
- 18 Workforce Development Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund Chicago, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 10:00 – 12:00
- 19 Joint Workforce Development Committee and Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Committee Diversity Work Group, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 9:30 – 11:30
- 19 Community Partnerships Work Group of the Birth to Five Project, Oversight and Coordination Committee and the Infant Toddler Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 2:30 – 4:00
- 27 Home Visiting Task Force videoconference, 1112 South Wabash, 3rd floor, Chicago, and 535 West Jefferson, 3rd Floor, Springfield, 12:00 – 2:00
- 29 Special Needs Training Work Group of the Home Visiting Task Force, audioconference only, 10:00 – 11:00

June

- 4 Director Credential Work Group of the Oversight and Coordination and Workforce Development Committees, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 1:00 – 2:30
- 8 Executive Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 11:00 – 12:30
- 11 Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Committee, audioconference only, 10:30 – 11:30
- 16 Research and Evaluation Workgroup of the Home Visiting Task Force, 10:30 – 12:00, audioconference only
- 19 Public Awareness Committee, Voices for Illinois Children, 208 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1490, Chicago, 11:00 – 12:30
- 22 Early Learning Council, National Louis University, 122 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago Atrium, Chicago, 11:00 – 1:00
- 24 Home Visiting Task Force videoconference, 1112 South Wabash, 3rd floor, Chicago, and 535 West Jefferson, 3rd Floor, Springfield, 10:00 – 12:00
- 26 Data Work Group of the Executive Committee, Ounce of Prevention Fund, 33 W. Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago, 10:00 – 12:00

Videoconference where indicated

All meetings include audioconference access

APPENDIX C: COMMITTEE WORK PLANS

Infant Toddler Committee Work Plan

GOAL I: Expand access to high-quality early childhood development programs for all at-risk children under three years of age

Objective A: (Short-term)

Identify and make recommendations regarding opportunities to expand funding for infant and toddler programs and services, including increasing the Infant Toddler set-aside of the Early Childhood Block Grant

Action Steps	Status
1. Committee chairs and staffer will draft recommendation language to be presented to the Infants and Toddlers Committee during the December meeting.	Completed and passed by the full ELC
2. As recommendations related to other goals are made, the committee will attempt to identify needs and potential opportunities for expanded funding.	Ongoing

Comments:

Objective B: (Long-term)

Make recommendations for a system of capacity building and resource development to ensure that infant and toddler programs are aware of funding opportunities, and are prepared to apply for and implement high-quality infant toddler services

Action Steps:	Status
1. Research existing mechanisms for capacity building.	
2. Identify gaps in the availability of capacity building and resource development for infant and toddler programs across the state.	
3. Create a recommendation which will include several components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that programs (those who are applying and those who would like to apply) are at a level of quality that could sustain a research-based model possibly through one-on-one consultation. • Link programs that could support a research-based model to available funding opportunities and providing assistance in applying for funds. Create a template of what programs should have in place before applying as a resource. (Potentially include in toolkit) • Ensure that programs that have received funding have access to supports to deliver a quality program. 	
4. Research funding.	

Comments:

- Some aspects of this objective are being addressed through the Joint Work Group on Community Partnerships
- May also fit into the work plan of the Home Visiting Task Force

GOAL II: Improve the quality of infant toddler child care, programs and services

Objective A: (Long-term) Develop a system of Infant Toddler Specialists to serve as consultants to child care providers, perhaps modeled after Infant Toddler Specialists in other states	
Action Steps	Status
1. Research will be done by staffer and committee co-chairs, and presented at the December meeting regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Determine how the role of Infant Toddler Specialists differs from Nurse Consultants and Mental Health ConsultantsDetermine the tasks of the social emotional specialists that are being hired by the CFC's across the state, and if they are skilled in infant and toddler services	Completed Completed
2. Develop recommendations regarding Infant Toddler Specialists and share with the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Bureau of Child Care and Development.	Completed
Comments:	
Objective B: Review licensing requirements for center-based infant and toddler care and consider recommendations to improve quality	
Action Steps	Status
1. Further discussion and review of licensing requirements by committee.	
2. Identify an Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) licensing representative to participate in the Infant and Toddler Committee.	Completed
3. Identify mechanisms to coordinate with work being done on this topic at the IDHS Child Care Advisory Council.	
Comments:	

GOAL III: Improve coordination across infant toddler programs and services at the state and local levels

Objective A: Develop recommendations regarding the creation of an outreach system for all new parents to provide basic information and support, and to identify and connect families who need more intensive services to appropriate programs and services	
Action Steps	Status
1. Conduct research on a range of mechanisms (including CCR&R model) to facilitate access to family support/home visiting programs.	
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">This objective has been referred to the Joint Work Group on Community Partnerships.	
Objective B: Make recommendations to improve coordination of program model specific monitoring and technical assistance across government agencies and other entities	
Comments:	

- This objective has been referred to the Birth to Three Monitoring Work Group beginning January 2009.

GOAL IV: Complete objectives from previous Work Group

Objective A:

Create recommendations for a process to approve comprehensive, intensive, research-based models to be funded through the Prevention Initiative, as required by statute

Comments:

- The RFP/Process Work Group developed recommendations for a process to approve research-based models.
- This objective has been referred to the Home Visiting Task Force, where the recommendations mentioned above will be discussed and vetted.

Objective B:

Make recommendations on revisions to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Prevention Initiative (PI) RFP to better reflect changes to the ISBE Prevention Initiative statute

Comments:

- The RFP/Process Work Group recommended suggested revisions to the FY09 PI RFP, which were passed at the October 2008 Early Learning Council meeting.
- The Work Group will continue to review changes and develop recommendations as necessary for each subsequent version of the PI RFP.

GOAL V: Resolve the “young three’s” issue faced by center-based programs across the state

Objective A:

Action Steps

Status

Comments:

- This issue was referred to the committee by the ELC Co-chairs.

Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Committee Work Plan

GOAL: Develop strategies for meeting the varied needs of culturally and linguistically diverse families and young children to ensure that they are well-prepared for school.

Objective A: Research and create recommendations so that best instructional practices for young children who are bilingual or who are English Language Learners will include the areas of Assessment and Instruction and will cover theories of bilingualism, second language acquisition and social cultural aspects of learning.	
Action Steps	Status
1. Develop appropriate Early Childhood (EC) L1 and L2 assessments.	Ongoing
2. Website or collection of EC and bilingual sources that cross-link between EC and bilingual information and relevant areas and sites with relevant data.	Ongoing
3. Create recommendations to ISBE regarding the implementation of the home language survey in EC settings as to trigger both L1 and L2 EC assessments.	Ongoing – recommendations made to ISBE October 2008
4. Work on creating a definitions and terms glossary to bridge bilingual and EC.	Ongoing
5. Work with ISBE to approve language proficiency standards for early childhood settings.	Ongoing
6. Promote NAEYC position	Ongoing
Comments:	
Objective B: Identify opportunities and make recommendations for increasing teacher capacity of the current early childhood workforce to work with English Language Learners and bilingual children. Identify opportunities for and content for additional training for teachers/practitioners to become more familiar with bilingual children and families. Research ways and make recommendations to support increasing the pool of certified bilingual early childhood teachers.	
Action Steps	Status
1. Survey course requirements for teacher preparation programs regarding working with English Language Learners (ELL).	Ongoing
2. Make recommendations for the creation/enhancement of scholarship programs for bilingual/English as a Second Language (ESL) certification for early childhood staff. Make recommendations for increased investments through Preschool for All quality enhancement funding for bilingual/ESL cohort programs.	Ongoing
3. Make recommendations to ISBE regarding professional development requirements for early childhood program staff who work with English Language Learners.	Ongoing

4. Identify ways to promote ELL-focused professional development offerings of child care, Head Start and other staff development programs.	Ongoing
Comments:	
Objective C: Research Illinois Law regarding the education of English Language Learners. Make appropriate recommendations.	
Action Steps	Status
1. To be determined.	
Comments:	
Objective D: Identify ways to increase parental engagement in linguistically and culturally diverse families.	
Action Steps	Status
1. To be determined.	
Comments:	

Oversight and Coordination Committee Work Plan

GOAL I: Provide advice to the Early Learning Council to help ensure the effective implementation of all Preschool for All birth to five services and program quality components and Early Learning Council recommendations

Objective A:

Support a diverse delivery system of early childhood services in Illinois by addressing Preschool for All implementation challenges in child care, Head Start, and other community settings.

Action Steps:	Status
1. Research and create recommendations for meeting the transportation needs of child care and community-based providers.	
2. Identify training and technical assistance needs of child care and community-based providers and work to develop detailed recommendations for meeting those needs.	
3. Solicit input from providers regarding the Early Childhood Block Grant budget questions and work with ISBE and CPS to create a FAQ document to address their questions.	Ongoing
4. Work with ISBE and CPS staff to make additional guidance regarding approved Preschool for All program model options and options for blended funding.	
5. Work with representatives from DCFS, IDHS, ISBE, and others to explore the relationship of DCFS licensing with the Quality Rating System and Preschool for All.	
6. Support the efforts of the Good Start, Grow Smart team to develop a shared information system to enable shared access to information and monitoring.	

Comments:

Objective B:

Develop strategies and recommendations to enable programs to engage the most hard to reach children and families more effectively.

Action Steps:	Status
1. Identify issues, barriers and challenges preventing those most at-risk from accessing Preschool for All services.	Completed
2. Recommend strategies for focusing on trusting relationships between programs within communities and between programs and their clients in order to increase recruitment and retention of participants.	Completed
3. Recommend program models that will enable programs to engage hard to reach families more effectively.	Completed

Comments: The recommendations from the Hard to Reach Work Group were passed by the Council at the October 2008 meeting.

Objective C:

Develop recommendations to encourage program directors to attain the director credential.

Action Steps:	Status
Comments: The Council referred this issue to the Workforce Development and Oversight & Coordination Committees at the February 2009 meeting.	
Objective D: Develop recommendations to address the unequal distribution of resources for community-based agencies in Chicago for administrative and infrastructure costs.	
Action Steps:	Status
Comments: The Executive Committee referred this issue to the Oversight and Coordination Committee at the February 2009 meeting.	

GOAL II: Recommend systems focusing on standards, assessments, systems-level program evaluation, and quality assurance that support both individual children's learning and development and programs' continuous improvement

Objective A: Support the evaluation of Preschool for All by acting as an advisory group to ISBE and the Erikson Institute.	
Action Steps:	Status
1. Include updates on the Illinois' Birth to Five Evaluation as a standing agenda item at Oversight and Coordination Committee meetings	Ongoing
Comments:	
Objective B: Make recommendations for the development of a coordinated monitoring system for all birth to three programs in Illinois.	
Action Steps:	Status
1. Examine the current systems in place for monitoring across birth to three program models and funding streams and make recommendations for the development of an enhanced and coordinated system for monitoring infant toddler programs.	In progress
2. Make recommendations for the development of a monitoring system for Prevention Initiative programs.	In progress
Comments: The Birth to Three Monitoring Work Group is preparing initial recommendations around the development of a monitoring system for the June 2009 Early Learning Council meeting.	

GOAL III: Recommend strategies to improve coordination and integration across early childhood programs and systems to address the comprehensive nature of children's healthy development and readiness for school

Objective A: Develop strategies and recommendations to guide the development of community collaboration and planning systems in support of Preschool for All.	
Action Steps:	Status
1. Develop guidance for programs applying for Preschool for All regarding the successful implementation of community collaborations and the benefit to communities of convening these types of groups.	
2. Gather information about current collaboration conferences and	

suggest ways that programs can provide input regarding the content of future collaboration conferences or other opportunities for learning/professional development.	
3. Explore the possibility of funding community collaboration pilot projects and develop recommendations about their potential structure and essential elements.	
4. Work together with Head Start to create strategies for enhanced collaboration between Head Start and Preschool for All.	
Comment: The Joint Community Partnership Work Group is developing recommendations on this objective.	
Objective B: Research the potential for state agencies to provide technical assistance around capacity building to targeted communities where children remain unserved and there are not enough programs to serve them	
Action Steps: 1. To be determined.	Status

Public Awareness Committee Work Plan

GOAL: Increase participation in high quality early learning programs by providing consistent, high quality information, outreach and technical assistance to families, early childhood providers, and other stakeholders.

Objective A: Coordinate information and outreach efforts related to Preschool for All	
Action Steps	Status
1. Leverage current opportunities and look for new opportunities in the future to use grant awards and other media opportunities to publicize early childhood successes and needs.	In progress – currently exploring TV and radio public service announcements
2. Plan public awareness activities annually in collaboration with full ELC, ISBE, IDHS and other key stakeholders.	Ongoing
3. Intensify public awareness and media outreach in targeted high-need communities likely to apply for FY10 Preschool for All (PFA) funds.	Incomplete due to limited funds, will revisit in FY11
4. Explore establishing centralized Preschool for All homepage housed at ISBE site and linked to all major information networks.	Completed
5. Expand public awareness efforts as needed until Illinois families are fully served.	Ongoing
Objective B: Assist with branding, messaging and production of informational programs	
Action Steps	Status
1. Develop PFA brand (logo, tagline, core messages, etc.) for use in future materials.	In progress
2. Continue to support INCCRRA's Quality Rating System for providers and families.	Ongoing
Objective C: Provide materials and training to existing early childhood networks to ensure consumers are provided with consistent, accurate and helpful information	
Action Steps	Status
1. Develop and distribute information tool kit, basic tracking/referral processes for use by CCR&Rs, ISBE switchboard and other major information networks. Provide training as needed.	Completed
Objective D: Connect information dissemination, technical assistance and program planning resources so that prospective Preschool for All providers are able to develop high quality proposals that meet demonstrated community needs.	
1. Schedule informational workshops for potential PFA providers which will include a PowerPoint presentation and all available materials, boilerplate marketing kit for	Illinois Action for Children initiated similar activities

programs to use in parent outreach and the application timing and resources for planning.	
2. Assist ISBE in outreach and technical assistance to providers about FY10 Preschool for All application process.	Completed
3. Expand providers' access to ISBE and IECAM data to identify high-need areas and target additional outreach to potential providers in those communities.	
Objective E: Leverage available communications resources to expand public support for early learning as a policy priority.	
Action Steps	Status
1. Identify Preschool for All speakers bureau and provide briefing call on materials, outreach plans and key messages.	

Space Capacity Committee Work Plan

GOAL: Increase the space capacity in communities to serve children in high quality classrooms, infant-toddler care and education settings, especially where there are shortages.

Objective A: Provide recommendations to ISBE, Capital Development Board, IDHS, and other entities concerning early childhood facilities	
Action Steps	Status
1. Provide boilerplate guidelines concerning best practices in the planning and development of high quality, licensable early childhood facilities to assist in the development of a capital application or RFP.	Completed RFP guidelines were approved by the Council in June 2008
2. Serve as a sounding board for ISBE, Capital Development Board, and IDHS on early childhood facilities decisions.	Ongoing
3. Assist in the review of applications for early childhood construction grants.	Ongoing
4. Report to the ELC on the administration, utilization, and effectiveness of any early childhood construction grants or loan programs.	Ongoing
5. Recommend that the leadership of the ELC invite a representative from the Capital Development Board to join the ELC and Space Capacity Committee.	Pending
6. Provide a list of Space Capacity Committee members to the Capital Development Board to assist in the review of applications.	Pending, to be completed in advance of the call for applications
Comments:	
Objective B: Provide recommendations to ISBE, Capital Development Board, IDHS, and other entities concerning planning for early childhood facilities for applicants that do not have space or funding for capital investment, including renovations.	
Action Steps	Status
1. Develop position statement regarding the importance of allowing, if not encouraging, planning to be a component of application for capital funding.	
2. Provide recommendations regarding the limits of planning vs. development for applicants of capital grants.	Ongoing
3. Provide a list of recommended planning entities. Applicants would have option to choose other planning entities.	Ongoing
4. Encourage planning and use of respected data to be part of all applications for capital funding, whether or not planning is funded by the grant.	Included in RFP criteria.

Comments:	
Objective C: Provide training opportunities, boilerplate guidelines and reference material concerning best practices in the planning and development of high quality, licensable early childhood facilities that are targeted to the space capacity needs of both school-based and community-based programs	
Action Steps	Status
1. Hold meetings with ISBE and community leaders who seek new schools to emphasize the importance of planning for early childhood education capacity.	Pending
2. Support the development of training workshops and technical assistance for early childhood providers on facilities development and capital financing options.	Pending
3. Explore the feasibility of professional development workshops for architects and early childhood providers and stakeholders on best practices in physical design.	Pending
Comments:	
Objective D: Provide recommendations to the Early Learning Council, state agencies and community-level providers and stakeholders on areas of greatest need for capital projects and financing.	
Action Steps	Status
1. Examine existing data sources, analyze the adequacy of the data, and make recommendations on which data sources should be used to identify areas of greatest need in the state.	Ongoing
2. Work with researchers from IECAM, Chapin Hall, and other relevant organizations and universities to refine existing data sources and analyses. Recommend what new information should be collected and/or analyses should be conducted over the next two years to further refine capital planning and funding decisions.	Ongoing
3. Develop a position paper and related documents that use data from IECAM, Chapin Hall, and other sources to identify communities of highest need, taking into consideration community resources and projected demographic changes. Establish criteria and principles to be used for the ranking of high-need communities within Chicago and across the state.	See action step #1
4. Provide recommendations to early childhood providers, school districts, and local stakeholders on reliable data sources to use for needs assessments and potential capital applications.	Ongoing
5. Encourage planning that analyzes community-level factors, dynamics, preferences, and trends not captured by early childhood program capacity and utilization data.	See action step #2
Comments:	
Objective E:	

Advocate for the establishment of a dedicated statewide funding stream for early childhood capital projects and other facilities development policies.	
Action Steps	Status
1. Review and analyze best practices in early childhood program construction financing and facilities development. Meet with the leadership of other states (e.g. North Carolina, New Jersey and Connecticut) that have developed innovative financing models and development strategies.	Ongoing
2. Develop a series of new policy options and recommendations for Illinois.	
3. Synthesize recommendations into a targeted policy agenda and advocacy plan.	
4. Convene meetings with the ELC leadership, key advocacy organizations, and other early childhood stakeholders to determine possible legislative options.	Ongoing
5. Create brief advocacy/ policy documents and other materials that: 1) make the case for capital investments targeted to early childhood providers, and 2) identify policy options and priorities.	Ongoing
Comments:	

Special Populations Committee Work Plan

GOAL: Expand access to high quality early learning programs to children who face the greatest challenges, such as children with disabilities, children who are homeless, children involved the child welfare system, children in domestic violence shelters, etc.

Objective A: (Short-term) Define special populations and come to a common understanding of the services available to them and the challenges they face in preschool.	
Action Steps	Status
1. Develop a list of special populations to be covered by the committee.	Completed
2. Committee members present on the needs, challenges, and supports available to the special population they represent.	
3. Solicit feedback on presentations – including questions that need clarification.	
4. Come to a common understanding of the barriers faced by particular populations and recommendations for addressing them.	
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee discussed a variety of groups that are included in the definition of special populations. The committee’s primary focus is on improving services available to homeless children, children in the child welfare system and children needing special education services. However, the needs of other special populations remain of interest to the committee. 	
Objective B: (Long-term) Develop recommendations for systems supports to expand access to high quality learning experiences to children in special populations.	
Action Steps	Status
1. Administer online survey to the state’s early childhood providers developed to learn about barriers preventing programs from creating a system that serves children and families with special circumstances and needs.	
2. Work with stakeholder groups to finalize a recommendation to decrease the amount of time between when a child is evaluated for a disability and when the child begins to receive services.	
3. Continue to identify common issues across special populations.	
4. Develop recommendations on personnel and process infrastructure to identify children in special populations and link them to services that will allow them to benefit from the early education experience.	
5. Consider the enrollment process and a mechanism or tool to engage families and identify their circumstances (ensuring that the tool is strengths-based).	
6. Consider accessibility of family workers, social workers,	

mental health consultants, and other support personnel necessary to ensure a quality preschool experience for children in special populations.	
Comments:	
Objective C: Determine the mechanisms and processes for interacting with other committees to advance special populations work.	
Action Steps	Status
1. Use updates from liaisons to other committees to coordinate the efforts of the Special Populations Committee with the Council's other committees.	
2. As the Committee produces recommendations to better serve special populations, discuss relevant aspects with specific committees as necessary (e.g. recruiting children from special populations may involve the Public Awareness Committee).	
Comments:	

Workforce Development Committee Work Plan

GOAL: Ensure an adequate and stable supply of diverse, well-prepared early childhood professionals by focusing on a wide range of professional development needs.

Objective A: (Timeframe – 2 years) Advance a professional development system, including supporting the work of the Gateways to Opportunity Professional Development Advisory Council, to support the education and training of early childhood practitioners.	
Action Steps	Status
1. Support the planning and implementation of the Infant Toddler Credential and its integration with other research-based birth-to-three training models.	
2. Convene a joint Infant Toddler and Workforce Development Work Group to define qualifications for infant toddler personnel working in Early Childhood Block Grant center-based birth-to-three programs.	
3. Embed the Gateways to Opportunity career development system into state government.	
4. Continue to promote a recommendation from the Early Learning Council to endorse well-qualified program administrators through the Illinois Directors Credential or an ISBE Type 75 administrative certificate.	
5. Promote the development and funding of targeted Type 04 teacher certification cohorts.	
6. Support expanded financial aid and scholarship options for early childhood practitioners.	
7. Work with higher education institutions to implement Public Act 094-1110, the Student Teaching Bill, permitting paid student teaching placements for candidates who are working practitioners in their current place of employment.	
8. Support the implementation of the AAT-ECE through higher education institutions.	
9. Support the offering of additional Basic Skills Test preparation resources.	
10. Support a model for appropriate compensation for early childhood practitioners.	
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other ELC committee involvement – Infant Toddler Committee 	
Objective B: (Timeframe – 2 years) Advocate among leadership within higher education institutions for increased resources for early childhood programs and departments.	
Action Steps	Status
1. Continue to engage 2 and 4-year early childhood faculty members and department chairs to define what resources are needed to expand educational and clinical offerings.	
2. Provide presentations to higher education early childhood associations	

to address the changing landscape of early childhood programs and employment opportunities in Illinois.	
3. Work to communicate, through the Early Learning Council, changing landscape and early childhood department needs to leadership within 2 and 4-year institutions.	
4. Support the needs of specific institutions as requested.	
Comments:	
Objective C: (Timeframe – 1-3 years) Develop strategies for increasing the number of bilingual early childhood practitioners and create models for cultural and linguistic competence training to support staff who are working in diverse communities.	
Action Steps	Status
1. Track program models and funds distributed through the ISBE Teacher Assistance Grant which target multilingual/multicultural, minority practitioners and those working in hard to staff geographical areas.	
2. Support additional financial assistance strategies which target diverse practitioners.	
3. Convene joint Workforce Development and Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Work Group to identify best practices for working successfully with multilingual/multicultural children and their families to support the work of existing practitioners in diverse communities.	
4. Promote Type 04 cohort certification programs which include bilingual/English as a second language coursework and credentials.	
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other ELC committee involvement – Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Committee 	

Data Work Group Work Plan

GOAL: Develop recommendations for the establishment of a unified data collection system for public early childhood education and development programs and services throughout the state.

Objective I	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe
Determine desired content for data system and availability of current data sources in order to support the creation of a unified data system. Create recommendations.	1. Determine what elements stakeholders want to include in an early childhood data system (discussion, brainstorm)	Work Group	Fall and Spring 2008 - 2009
	2. Share lists with other groups for their feedback A. Government Interagency Team B. Other Early Learning Council Committees	Work Group staffer	Spring 2009
	3. Research and create inventory of what data elements are already collected by A. ISBE B. CPS C. IDHS child care D. IDHS home visiting programs E. Head Start F. IDCFS G. Health – IDHS, IDHFS, IDPS, including vital statistics	Work Group staffer	Spring 2009
	4. Research system design possibilities, including identifying appropriate lead agency, need for data sharing agreements, etc. A. Map out data collection responsibilities B. Engage in discussions with state agencies C. Create draft data sharing agreements	Work Group and staffer	Fall 2009
	5. Craft recommendations	Work Group	
Deliverables	1. List of desired data elements		Summer 2009
	2. Crosswalk of elements to agencies already collecting those elements		Summer 2009
	3. Recommendation for system		Fall 2009

Objective II	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe
Create framework for using data collected by system to strengthen data-driven decision-making	1. Research and create an inventory of potential “end users” for an early childhood data system		Mid term
	2. Identify opportunities for strengthening decision-making in the state through use of data system		Mid term
	3. Identify data elements that could be useful to decision-makers based on priorities identified in Action Step 1		
	4. Create framework		Mid term
Deliverable	1. Framework		

Objective III	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe
Create a mechanism for delivering feedback in real time to early childhood educators (and other relevant state and local stakeholders), allowing for improvement in the quality of services to children.	1. To be decided		Long term
Deliverable	1. To be decided		

Objective IV	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe
Provide input on early childhood data to other bodies or agencies as needed.	1. Provide input to the Governor’s Office regarding potential uses of ARRA State Early Learning Advisory Council funding to support early childhood data systems. Input to be delivered through the Early Learning Council Executive Committee.	Work Group	May – June 2009
	2. Provide input regarding state Institute of Education Sciences grant		
Deliverable	1.		

Home Visiting Task Force Work Plan

Vision: One coordinated high-quality Home Visiting System in Illinois that reaches all at-risk children

GOALS

- Expand access to high-quality evidence-based home visitation programs for all at-risk children under three years of age
- Improve the quality of home visitation programs and services in Illinois
- Improve coordination between home visiting programs at the state and local level, as well as between home visiting and all the other services for infants and toddlers
- Serve as an advisory body to the Strong Foundations project

Topic I	FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND FUNDING STRATEGIES (Logic Model: Goal 8)
Charge	To leverage existing funds, plan for potential new state and federal money, and prepare for the future challenges of using multiple funding streams
Core Membership	Denise Simon, Kay Henderson, Nancie Brown, Gaylord Gieseke, Nancy Shier, Loretta Bariffe, Colleen Jones, Dawn Melchiorre, Ben Peck, and Karen Yarbrough
Chair	Ralph Schubert

Objectives	Action Steps	Timeframe
A. Identify and make recommendations regarding opportunities to leverage existing money, and expand state and federal funding for evidence-based home visiting programs in Illinois	1. Develop and implement a survey of home visiting programs including the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. What are their sources of financial support? b. Are there mechanisms to coordinate early childhood programs in their community? What are those? (Goal 10) c. Are there mechanisms to match families to the most appropriate home visiting program in their community? What are those? (Goal 7) 	A draft of the survey will be shared at the 01/28 meeting. January – February 2009
	2. Review the allocation of Title V; Title XX; TANF Block Grants; Title IV-E and Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) funds	February-March
	3. Research the Medicaid state plan as a potential funding source for home visiting especially the Nurse Partnership model	February-March
	4. Research other states' use of Medicaid for NPF including Pennsylvania, Louisiana, and New York	February-March
	5. Make recommendations on the leveraging of new funds to support the expansion of evidence-based home visitation in Illinois	Discussion at the first March meeting
	6. Include the US DHHD, Region V ACF as a key government agency partner, as federal Early Head Start (EHS) dollars fund several home visiting programs in Illinois	
B. Coordinate funding streams expansion efforts	7. Develop a statewide needs assessment to identify high-need communities	Long term
DELIVERABLES	1. List of recommendations on the leveraging of state funds like Title V; Title XX; TANF Block Grants; Title IV-E and Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and federal funds to support the expansion of evidence-based home visiting programs in Illinois	April – May

	2. Summary of survey results	
	3. List of recommendations on how to leverage potential new funds	

Topic II	PLANNING ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES (Logic Model: Goals 2, 7 and 10)
Charge	To develop a technical assistance strategy so that every community uses either the home visiting model that best fits, or the multiple home visiting models its families need in a coordinated and efficient manner
Core Membership	Full Task Force but linking responsibilities with efforts underway at the Community Partnerships Work Group (e.g. tool kit)

Objectives	Action Steps	Timeframe
A. Develop and provide high quality technical assistance to communities with a big tent approach that helps them choose and implement the evidence-based home visitation model that best fits their needs	1. Provide training for the regional administrator	
	2. Train DCHP, DCFS, ISBE staff and others as appropriate to assist communities in selecting a model	
	3. Support communities in assembling a collaborative planning team for the implementation of Strong Foundations	
	4. Support the planning team in assessing community needs and resources, identifying potential funding sources, and developing a strategic plan	
	5. Monitor technical assistance to communities in choosing and implementing an appropriate home visitation model.	
B. Define critical elements of a referral system	6. To be determined	
C. Develop, identify and support replications of models for community-based collaboration where multiple home visiting models exist in the same community	7. Identify communities where multiple programs coexist and assist them in collaboration where necessary (Kane County and Positive Parenting DuPage, for example)	
	8. Identify successful models of collaboration in communities with multiple home visiting programs	
	9. Replicate these collaboration models in communities that don't have them	Long term
DELIVERABLE	Technical Assistance package to be used in presentations about all three home visiting models supported by Strong Foundations, which will use or include the following products: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Materials from the Community Partnerships Work Group tool kit to support local collaboration efforts b. Materials adapted from Tool Kit for Implementing Research-based Program Models created for ISBE on selecting and implementing a research-based model 	

Topic III	SPECIAL NEEDS TRAINING (Logic Model: Goals 3 and 9)
Charge	To train home visitors to be able to deal effectively with families that have been or currently are affected by domestic violence, substance abuse, parental developmental disability, and mental illness
Core Membership	Claire Dunham, Nancie Brown, Jesslyn Jobe, Tanya Landsman, Mark Valentine, and

	Yvonne Lee Wilson
Chair	Denise Simon

Objectives	Action Steps	Timeframe
Provide training to home visitors to facilitate the relationship with high-risk families through linking home visiting programs with the full array of community-based services for families with special needs	1. Assess working and referral relationships between home visitation and treatment agencies	
	2. Development of training, including materials and evaluation	
	3. Coordinate training logistics and timeline with the Illinois Birth to Three Institute (IBTI)	
	4. Provide training to home visitors in domestic violence, substance abuse, parental developmental disability, and mental illness so that home visitors will recognize the problem, know the appropriate actions to take and not to take, and link families with community resources to get local treatment services	
	5. Monitor training in every model, especially training to work with families affected by domestic violence, substance abuse, mental illness, and/or parental developmental disability	
DELIVERABLES	Plan for training home visitors to effectively work with families affected by domestic violence, substance abuse, parental developmental disability and mental illness including identifying, assessing and referring those families as appropriate.	Long term

Topic IV	PROGRAM MONITORING AND QUALITY ASSURANCE (Logic Model: Goal 5)
Charge	To develop high quality home visiting monitoring strategy, coordinating the efforts of IDHS, ISBE, DCFS, Region V DHH (EHS) and other model-specific efforts
Core Membership	Raydeen James, Kay Henderson, Nancie Brown, Clare Eldredge, Jeanne Anderson, Linda Miller but linking responsibilities with efforts underway at the Joint Oversight and Coordination & Infants and Toddlers Work Group on Birth to Three Monitoring of the Early Learning Council

Objectives	Action Steps	Timeframe
Develop a coordinated, non-duplicative, efficient and effective approach to monitoring and improving the quality of home visiting programs in Illinois	1. Monitor integration between home visiting programs and the full array of services and supports for families with young children, especially FCM.	
	2. Identify potential challenges and make recommendations regarding: coordinating of monitoring and other challenges presented by multiple funding streams	
DELIVERABLE	Set of recommendations to ensure programs are implementing high quality services, regardless of model, and to support increased coordination of monitoring across funding streams and program model developers where appropriate.	May

Topic V	PUBLIC AWARENESS (Logic Model: Goal 6)
Charge	To plan for a campaign that will raise awareness on the importance of research-based home visiting models
Core Membership	Link with efforts underway in the Public Awareness Committee of the Early Learning Council.

Objectives	Action Steps	Timeframe
Develop and make recommendations for a marketing campaign that will raise awareness on the importance of research-based home visiting models	1. Make a list of objectives of the public awareness campaign	
	2. Provide guidance and input in hiring a Public Relations firm to achieve identified objectives	
	3. Develop messages	
	4. Develop public education materials. State-level: brochures, a newsletter, and development materials for the partners' websites. At the local level: guidelines to adapt these materials and prepare their own.	Year 1
DELIVERABLES	1. List of campaign objectives	June
	2. Completed RFP	June

Topic	RESEARCH AND EVALUATION (Logic Model: Goal 4)
Charge	Develop an infrastructure which supports ongoing collection and use of program data for program evaluation and continuous improvement
Core Membership	Diana Rauner, Julie Spielberger, Julie Crowch, Deborah Daro, Colleen Jones, Tanya Landsman, Kim Magnuson, Dawn Thomas and Constance Y. Williams

Objectives	Action Steps	Timeframe
A. Serve as an advisory body for the federal evaluation of the Strong Foundations project	1. Guide the design of a process and outcome evaluation of the Strong Foundations Project , including the evaluation of local program quality	
	2. Monitor evaluation ongoing efforts	
	3. Facilitate and participate actively in the federal evaluation process	
B. Develop an infrastructure which supports ongoing collection and use of program data for program evaluation and continuous improvement	4. Assess potential new program models' ability to meet the criteria necessary to become funded through funding streams requiring a research-base. (This could take one of several forms ranging from developing a set of criteria/scoring rubric for funders to approving or rating models – as opposed to individual proposals) to more active participation in the review process.)	
	5. Producing multi-model report	
	6. Promoting cross-model research and evaluation efforts	
	7. Identifying key outcomes to be addressed across models (e.g. child abuse prevention, school readiness, KidCare enrollment, etc.)	
DELIVERABLE	Develop a set of principles and criteria necessary to become recognized as a research or evidence-based infant toddler program	

APPENDIX D: TIMELINE OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Illinois Early Learning Council History and Related Accomplishments

- Spring 2003 Senate Bill 565 is unanimously approved by the legislature, which creates the Illinois Early Learning Council (the Council) to establish a high-quality, accessible, and comprehensive statewide early learning system.
- Summer 2003 Public Act 93-380, the Illinois Early Learning Council Act, is signed into law by Governor Rod Blagojevich. The Council is charged with guiding collaborative efforts to coordinate, improve and expand upon existing early childhood programs and services.
- January 2004 The Illinois Early Learning Council is convened. The Council's vision, key areas of focus, and committee structure are introduced.
- Spring 2004 The Council approves goals and objectives for five committees:
- Program Quality and Quality Assurance
 - Evaluation and Assessment
 - Expansion
 - Linkage and Integration
 - Workforce Development.
- The Executive Committee, consisting of Committee Co-chairs and at-large members, is established to guide and coordinate the work of the Council.
- Spring 2004 Several Executive Committee members meet with Deputy Governor Bradley Tusk regarding the Governor's goals and Council priorities. The Deputy Governor requests that the Council develop a plan to offer high-quality preschool to all three- and four-year-olds whose parents choose to participate as well as expand child development and family support services for at-risk infants and toddlers.
- Summer 2004 The Council approves the *Essential Elements of Preschool For All* to describe critical components of a proposed Preschool For All program. Council committees begin to develop detailed recommendations for inclusion in the Council's Preschool for All plan for submission to Governor Blagojevich.
- The Council approves the *Framework for High Quality Services for Expecting Families and Families with Infants and Toddlers through Preschool For All (Framework for High Quality Services)* which recommends specific evidence-based program models to be funded by ISBE through the infant toddler set-aside of the Early Childhood Block Grant.
- Winter 2004 Council members affirm the importance of and recommend adoption of the IDHS Bureau of Child Care and Development's *Comprehensive Plan to Revise the Child*

Care Provider Reimbursement Rates, including implementation of a quality rating/tiered reimbursement system to provide financial incentives for higher quality child care services as a critical step toward improving a family's access to – and the quality of – early care and education.

Fall 2005 The well-attended *Spotlight on Collaboration Seminar* is convened by ISBE, IDHS, and HHS to highlight successful early childhood collaboration models in Illinois communities. The conference is well-received and written materials, including a *Collaboration 101 Guidebook*, are disseminated. This effort was supported by a recommendation from the Council's Linkage and Integration Committee.

Spring 2006 The development of the *Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map* (IECAM) website (<http://iecam.crc.uiuc.edu/>) begins based on recommendations generated by the Linkage and Integration Committee. This web-based database, which combines information about early childhood services with demographic information, is a key tool for establishing a comprehensive early childhood development system serving young children and families statewide. The data that IECAM collects, displays, and makes available for analysis contributes to our understanding of how children are served and where resources are most needed.

Fall 2006 The Council recommends that IDHS issue new rules to administer *Gateways to Opportunity* early childhood credentials (<http://www.ilgateways.com/>). *Gateways to Opportunity*, the single statewide support network to provide guidance, encouragement, and recognition to individuals and programs that serve young children and families, offers a variety of professional development credentials that can be awarded to individuals who achieve specific educational or training milestones in early care and education. A credential is a document validating an individual's qualifications and is issued based on a variety of achievements in field experience, knowledge and skills, educational attainments and/or training accomplishments.

2003-06 *The Governor and the General Assembly increase investments in the Early Childhood Block grant by \$90 million and the Child Care Assistance Program by \$80 million over three fiscal years, FY 2004 – FY 2006.*

Spring 2006 The Council releases the *Preschool for All* report, which outlines recommendations that serve as the blueprint for Governor Blagojevich's proposal. The Illinois Early Learning Council's *Preschool for All* report is available for download at the Illinois Early Learning Council website.

Spring 2006 *Preschool for All legislation is approved by both chambers of the General Assembly with strong bipartisan support to make Illinois the first state in the nation with the goal of offering voluntary, high quality preschool to all three- and four-year-olds. Young children who are at risk of school failure are the first priority as Preschool for All expansion builds up, followed by middle-income children and, finally, all other children whose parents want them to participate.*

The FY 2007 state budget includes \$45 million in new funding for early childhood education, for total spending of \$318 million, with 11% of early childhood funding

targeted to birth-to-three programs serving at-risk infants and toddlers and their families. Funds also support quality and accountability enhancements recommended by the Illinois Early Learning Council. An additional \$34 million is added to the Child Care Assistance Program. Over a four-year period, the Early Childhood Block Grant grows by 73% or \$135 million and the Child Care Assistance Program by 18% or \$112 million.

- Spring 2006 Based on the work of the Council's 0-3 Quality Committee, the *Research Toolkit for Programs Serving Infants, Toddlers and Their Families: Implementing a Research-Based Program Model* is created and disseminated. Two day-long workshops on implementing research-based infant and toddler program models are provided by the Council's 0-3 Quality Workgroup & ISBE.

- Spring 2006 The *Illinois Early Childhood Collaboration* website, www.ilearlychildhoodcollab.org, is launched by the IDHS Head Start State Collaboration Office to offer stakeholders a range of information about collaboration models & resources. This effort is supported by the IDHS Child Care & Development Advisory Council and the Council's Linkage and Integration Committee. The Program Collaboration Profiles available under the website's Models section describe some of the most common service delivery approaches through which early childhood providers use Early Childhood Block Grant Prevention Initiative and Preschool for All, Head Start, Child Care, and other funds and resources to provide high quality, comprehensive, full-day, full-year services.

- Spring 2006 ISBE releases Requests for Proposals for a birth to three training and technical assistance institute and for mental health consultation for programs serving at-risk infants, toddlers and their families. These efforts implement recommendations made by the 0-3 Quality Committee.

- Summer 2006 An online *Child Care Provider Survey*, which was designed by the 3-5 Quality Committee to identify training and technical assistance needs relative to Preschool for All quality standards is completed by 1,264 programs from 86 Illinois counties.

- Fall 2006 *Preschool For All implementation begins.*

- Fall 2006 The *Governor's Summit on Early Childhood: Making Preschool for All a Reality in Communities*, funded by the National Governors Association, is convened to bring together Council members and other stakeholders to develop action plans to address challenges in implementing Preschool for All over the next three to five years. The Summit targeted four key issues: 1) Expanding space capacity in communities; 2) Using best practices to meet the needs of linguistically and culturally diverse children and families; 3) Enrolling new children through effective outreach strategies; and 4) Expanding access to high quality early childhood development programs for at-risk children under age three.

- Winter 2006 ISBE releases a Request for Proposals for Social Emotional Consultation funds and Early Childhood Teacher Preparation Assistance Grants, which were included in the Council's Preschool for All recommendations.

- Spring 2007 The Council undergoes a strategic planning process, and changes its committee structure. Seven committees are formed, including two “cross-committees” focusing on special populations and issues of linguistic and cultural diversity. The cross-committee structure ensures that issues relating to vulnerable populations and language-minority children and families will be infused within all committee work.
- Summer 2007 The Council approves a process through which it reaches out to early childhood planning bodies around Illinois, both sharing its own priorities and asking for information on the strategic plans of the other entities, enabling the bodies to work collaboratively on shared goals. This process will be undertaken annually, and is created in response to the Council’s charge to engage in planning, coordination and linkages across programs, divisions and agencies at the state level.
- Fall 2007 Early Learning Council Committees create new work plans and submit their goals to the Council for approval.
- Spring 2008 The Illinois team is selected, through a competitive process, to participate in the *National Symposium on Early Childhood Science and Policy*.
- Summer 2008 The Council creates the Early Childhood Data Work Group to design a comprehensive data collection system for early childhood programs serving children birth to age five.
- Summer 2008 The Space Capacity Committee creates a set of principles for awarding early childhood capital funding that can be used as the basis of future requests for proposals when funds are appropriated.
- Fall 2008 A joint Work Group of the Infants and Toddlers Committee and the Workforce Development Committee create new recommendations for qualifications for practitioners in Early Childhood Block Grant funded center-based programs working with children aged birth through three.
- Fall 2008 The Council creates the Home Visiting Task Force. Task Force goals include expanding access to high quality evidence-based home visitation programs for all at-risk children under three years of age, improving quality of home visiting programs in Illinois, improving coordination among home visiting programs and among all other services for infants and toddlers, and serving as an advisory body to the Strong Foundations project.
- Fall 2008 The Council recommends that activities undertaken to engage hard to reach children and families by Early Childhood Block Grant programs be supported through increased funding awards.
- Fall 2008 In order to assist programs in engaging families and children that are hard to reach but would benefit from early childhood services, the Oversight and Coordination Committee creates two tool kits. The provider tool kit, *Engaging Hard to Reach Families*, offers strategies for providing transportation, innovative programming, and family involvement activities. The *Preschool for All Outreach Toolkit* is designed for use by social service providers outside of early care and education and enables

agencies that work with families with young children to provide messages about the benefit of early childhood education and program availability. Both toolkits are posted to the Illinois State Board of Education website.

- Fall 2008 The Public Awareness Committee creates a flier for programs to use with parents that is posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website. English and Spanish versions are available.
- Fall 2008 Four committees (Oversight and Coordination, Infant and Toddler, Linguistic and Cultural Diversity, and Special Populations) create recommendations for revisions to the Preschool for All and Prevention Initiative Request for Proposals. The recommendations are approved by the Council at its October meeting.
- Winter 2009 The extended timeline and qualifications for staff education and training requirements for staff working in Early Childhood Block Grant-funded center-based programs for infants and toddlers are approved by the Council.
- Winter 2009 In response to the opportunities created through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the Council creates a set of recommendations for ways that Local Education Agencies (LEAs) can use ARRA funding to support early childhood programs and services in their communities. The recommendations are offered to the Illinois State Board of Education for use in their guidance to LEAs.
- Spring 2009 The Executive Committee of the Council recommends that an Office of Early Childhood Development be created by the Governor and be housed in his office. Creating an Office of Early Childhood Development would serve to elevate early childhood issues and signal its importance to both the members of the General Assembly and the administrators of state agencies, and aid with coordination and implementation of Council recommendations.